

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/796,508
Amendment dated September 4, 2007
RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION dated June 4, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An article conveying apparatus for conveying and transferring articles between a plurality of article storage sections for storing the articles therein and a predetermined entry-and-exit port, the apparatus comprising:

 a running truck body that runs along a track;

 a platform provided with a transfer device that transfers the articles;

 a pair of raising and lowering poles connected to said running truck body and extending vertically therefrom to guide and support said platform such that said platform is able to freely rise and lower;

 a pair of raising and lowering cables, wherein one of said pair of cables is connected to a front side end of an upper part of said platform and the other of said pair of cables is connected to a rear side end of an upper part of said platform to suspend and support said platform;

 a tension setting device that is arranged on the underside of said platform and sets a tension of said pair of raising and lowering cables; and

 a driving winding wheel for feeding and winding said pair of raising and lowering cables, and raising and lowering said platform;

 wherein said pair of raising and lowering cables are guided from the front side end and the rear side end of the upper part of said platform to a vicinity of a central portion of said running truck body between the front side end and the rear side end thereof via said driving winding wheel, and further guided together vertically from the vicinity of the central portion of the running truck body between the front side end and the rear end side thereof to a vicinity of a central lower portion of said platform between the front side end and the rear side end thereof, the other end of each of said raising and lowering cables being connected to said tension setting